Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (Currently Amended) A paper or paperboard, comprising

cellulosic fibers, and

a sizing or coating composition comprising

starch; and

a boron-containing compound, wherein

the amount of boron-containing compound is equal to or less than about 7% by weight of the starch; and

greater than 50% of the starch and boron-containing compound is located at at least one surface of the web;

and wherein at least a portion of the starch and boron-containing compound penetrates the surface of the web.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The paper or paperboard of claim 1 wherein the amount of starch is equal to or less than about 200 lbs per ton of fiber.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The paper or paperboard of claim 1 wherein the boron-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of boric acid and borate metal salts.

8. (Previously Presented) The paper or paperboard of claim 1, wherein the boron-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of boric acid, borax, and zinc borate.

9. (Original) The paper or paperboard of claim 1 wherein the boron-containing compound and the starch form a complex.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) A method for making the paper or paperboard according to Claim 1, comprising:

providing a papermaking furnish comprising cellulosic fibers;

forming a fibrous web from the papermaking furnish;

drying the web; and

sizing or coating the web with the composition to form a sized or coated web.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 further comprising calendering the sized or coated web to provide a finished paper or paperboard.

21. (Previously Presented) The paper or paperboard according to Claim 1, wherein the amount of boron-containing compound is from about 0.2% to about 7% by weight of the starch.

22. (Previously Presented) The paper or paperboard according to Claim 1, wherein the amount of boron-containing compound is less than 5% by weight of the starch.

23. (Previously Presented) The paper or paperboard according to Claim 1, wherein the amount of boron-containing compound is from about 0.2 to less than 5% by weight of the starch.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 19, wherein the papermaking furnish further comprises hollow microspheres.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) The paper or paperboard according to Claim 1, further comprising hollow microspheres.

27. (Previously Presented) The paper or paperboard according to Claim 1, wherein the paper or paperboard is at least one member selected from the group consisting of office paper, form paper, envelope paper, label stock paper, bristol paper, printing paper, publication paper, bleached board, and linerboard.

28. (Previously Presented) The paper or paperboard of claim 1 wherein the starch is selected from the group consisting of corn starch, wheat starch, potato starch, rice starch, tapioca starch, and sago starch.

29. (Previously Presented) The paper or paperboard of claim 1 wherein the starch is selected from the group consisting of anionic starch, cationic starch and amphipathic starch.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 19, wherein the amount of boron-containing compound is from about 0.2% to about 7% by weight of the starch.

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 19, wherein the amount of boron-containing compound is less than 5% by weight of the starch.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 19, wherein the amount of boron-containing compound is from about 0.2 to less than 5% by weight of the starch.